

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (Originally presented) A work conveying system comprising at least a work holding means for holding a work and a horizontal moving means for moving said work holding means horizontally in an upper ceiling space within a clean room, said work being conveyed to each of plural processing apparatuses while circulating among said processing apparatuses in the clean room, wherein:

said horizontal moving means has at least one linear moving mechanism,

said linear moving mechanism comprising:

a traveling path covered with a duct and having a guide portion in the interior thereof;

a traveling body adapted to engage said guide portion and travel through an interior space of said traveling path; and

a slider connected to said traveling body and adapted to travel together with said traveling body in the exterior of said traveling path, said work holding means or another linear moving mechanism being attached to said slider,

and cleaning means are disposed at suitable intervals in said traveling path to clean the air present within the traveling path and discharge the cleaned air to the exterior.

2. (Originally presented) A work conveying system according to claim 1, wherein a drive source, a drive mechanism, and a power supply means, which are for said traveling body, are accommodated in the interior of said traveling path, at least said drive source being integral with said traveling body.

3. (Currently Amended) A work conveying system according to claim 1 ~~or claim 2~~, wherein a base member serving as a base of a guide member having said guide portion constitute a part of said duct, said guide member and said base member being formed by integral molding of the same material.

4. (Currently Amended) A work conveying system according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 3~~, wherein in said horizontal moving means a plurality of said linear moving mechanisms are used in combination to permit the horizontal moving means to move arbitrarily in a horizontal plane in the upper ceiling space within said clean room.

5. (Currently Amended) A work conveying system according to claim 1 ~~any of claims 1 to 4~~, wherein said work holding means is attached to said slider through a vertical moving means for moving said work holding means vertically.

6. (Cancelled).

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Cancelled).

10. (Cancelled).

11. (Cancelled).

12. (Cancelled).

Respectfully submitted,


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